

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PRACTICAL GERMAN

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new Undergraduate Certificate program in Practical German in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, effective fall term, 2024.

Background

Language skills certification is widespread and can cover different levels of proficiency. Similar German language certificate programs can be found at the University of Detroit Mercy, Northern Michigan University, the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, the University of North Dakota, the University of Pittsburgh, Princeton University, the University of Wisconsin – Madison, Ohio University, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Certified language skills and cultural knowledge offer an advantage in the job market, particularly in Michigan where there are extensive cooperations and economic interconnections between Germany and the US. Many graduate and professional programs also require certified language skills. For example, demand is rising for MBA grads with fluency in a world language to meet the needs of expanding global markets. While some students cannot fit a language major or minor into their academic programs, they may still need to take courses in German to strengthen their language skills. The proposed program aims to certify their abilities to enhance their professional and academic prospects. Moreover, some students who pursue the certificate may ultimately decide to continue with a minor or major.

Program Description

The Undergraduate Certificate in Practical German provides students with the skills and ability to read, write, listen, and speak in the past, present, and future; carry out basic tasks necessary to everyday life in a German-speaking country or environment; describe people and things; understand and express opinions; and understand the main points of various media. Students also gain knowledge about cultural differences and practices that allow them to better understand and function within German cultures at an independent user level (B1).

Admission Requirements

The program shall be open to regularly admitted Wayne State University undergraduate students who are in good academic standing. The program shall also be open to students who have previously earned a baccalaureate level degree at Wayne State or another institution. Admission standards will be based on the BOG code 2.34.09 Admissions; General Undergraduate.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
GER 1010	Elementary German I	4
GER 1020	Elementary German II	4
GER 2010	Intermediate German	4
GER 2020	Everyday Encounters in Language and Culture	4
Total Credits		16

Submitted by: Laurie M. Lauzon Clabo, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Graduation Requirements

Students must accumulate a 2.5 overall GPA and pass each of the courses to earn the certificate.

Program Administration

The program will be administered in the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (CMLLC) in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Functional management of the program will be provided by the German program faculty, with routine administrative oversight provided by the CMLLC Policy Committee. The CMLLC academic advisor, in collaboration with the Germany faculty, will provide student advising.

Budget and Resource Requirements

No additional budgetary resources are required for the certificate program. Courses will be taught by faculty in the CMLLC department.

Accreditation

N/A

Approvals

The proposal was approved by the faculty of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (CMLLC), the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Provost.